THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, harmonisation of facilities extended to employees of both the erstwhile Companies has been taken up by National Aviation Company of India Limited in order to ensure uniformity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Aircrafts in the country

2343. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of aircraft both in Government and Private Sector being operated in India and from India;

(b) whether there is any shortage of pilots; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Merger of Air India and I.A.

2344. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has achieved any of the goals of merger of Air India and Indian Airlines during the first year of its merger;

(b) if so, the details thereof *vis-a-vis* goals of merger;

(c) whether it is a fact that flying by Air India is comparatively costlier than the other domestic private flight operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India into National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) on 27.8.2007 the integration process of different spheres of work has been initiated and the full integration would be achieved over two to three years. Benefits from the merger have already started flowing in the form of savings in procurement of fuel, insurance costs, network integration etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The fares offered by Air India are competitive and are based on market considerations such as fares offered by competitors, seasonability, product features like frequency, timings, direct/indirect operations etc.

Trespassing in Airports

†2345. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a boy had trespassed into Indira Gandhi International airport, New Delhi in the beginning of March, 2008;

(b) the number of such incidents which took place at various airports in the country during the last one year; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to avoid any lapse in security at airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The data is being collected.

(c) The Government has deployed CISF at 54 airports in the country. Intensive patrolling is being carried out by the CISF. Static guards are deployed at watch towers at the airports to keep watch over the perimeter and on trespassers and intruders. Government has also taken steps to strengthen the security through various security equipments and systems, Integrated Surveillance of Perimeter, Terminal Buildings, Apron and other such security sensitive areas of airports through Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV), mobile patrol and RF based perimeter intruder detection system has also been introduced.

Night vision binoculars have been provided to CISF. Government has prescribed standard height of 8 feet for perimeter wall with one and half feet of overhang concertina fencing at airports. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security conducts security audits and inspections of the security arrangements at the airports to ensure compliance of the prescribed aviation Security Standards and Procedures as also to ensure remedial steps in case of any shortcomings. Intruders or those attempting to intrude, are immediately apprehended, investigated and handed over to local police for further action.

Violation of permit conditions

2346. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued show-cuase notices to Kingfisher Airlines and Jet Airways for clubbing fuel surcharge and congestion charges with tax;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that operators are violating the conditions of permit to operate the scheduled services;

(c) if so, the details of other operations who are violating the permit conditions; and

(d) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken by Government against the operators for violating the permit conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had sought clarification from all the private scheduled airlines regarding tax components being charged by them and confirmation whether all the taxes shown on their respective websites are deposited with the Government. All the private scheduled airlines have confirmed that they are showing various components of air fare separately on the ticket.